



12¢

NOV.
NO. 381

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



Detective  Comics presents

BATMAN and ROBIN



DOWN
YOU GO,
ROBIN!
FROM NOW ON
I WORK
ALONE!





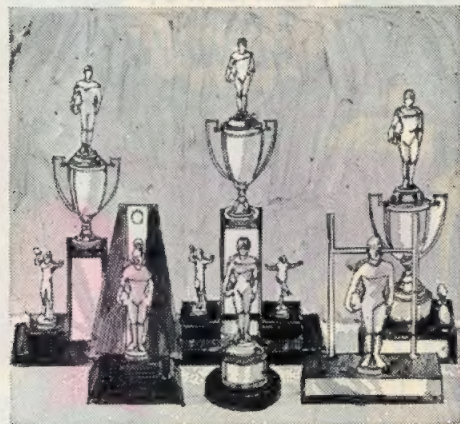
HEY GUYS!
WE'RE GETTING READY TO ENTER THE
FORD-NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
PUNT, PASS & KICK
COMPETITION!



IF YOU'RE BETWEEN
8 AND 13 YOU CAN
ENTER TOO!
IT'S FREE!
IT'S FUN!

LOOK AT THE TROPHIES YOU COULD WIN! EVERY FORD DEALER WILL MAKE 18 LOCAL AWARDS.

You compete only with kids your own age, so you've got a great chance to win a handsome trophy! And so many other trophies, for other wins on the way to the National Finals! More than 70,000 trophies altogether! Wow!



HERE'S ALL YOU DO TO ENTER.



Just take your mom, dad or legal guardian to your participating Ford Dealer and sign up! It's that easy!

FREE TRIPS, TOO!

Win a District Competition and you get a trip to an NFL city! Plus a complete uniform free to compete in at half-time. Win a Division Competition and you and your parents go on an all-expense-paid trip to Miami, Florida where you will compete in the PP&K finals at the Orange Bowl during half-time of the big NFL Runner-Up Bowl Game.



Following the finals you and your parents will travel to Washington, D.C. for the Tour of Champions.

LOOK WHAT YOU GET FOR ENTERING.



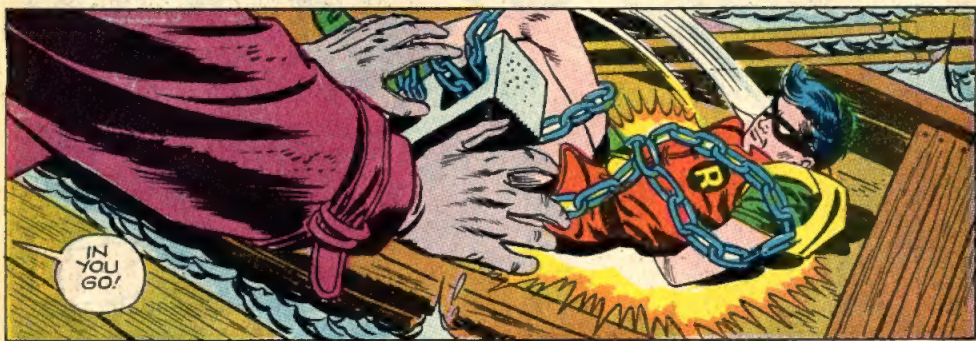
Just for signing up you get a swell PP&K pin to wear... AND a Punt, Pass & Kick TIPS BOOK by the big NFL stars, filled with hints to help you win. Free!

HURRY! REGISTRATION CLOSSES OCTOBER 4TH!

TAKE MOM, DAD OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO YOUR PARTICIPATING FORD DEALER TODAY!

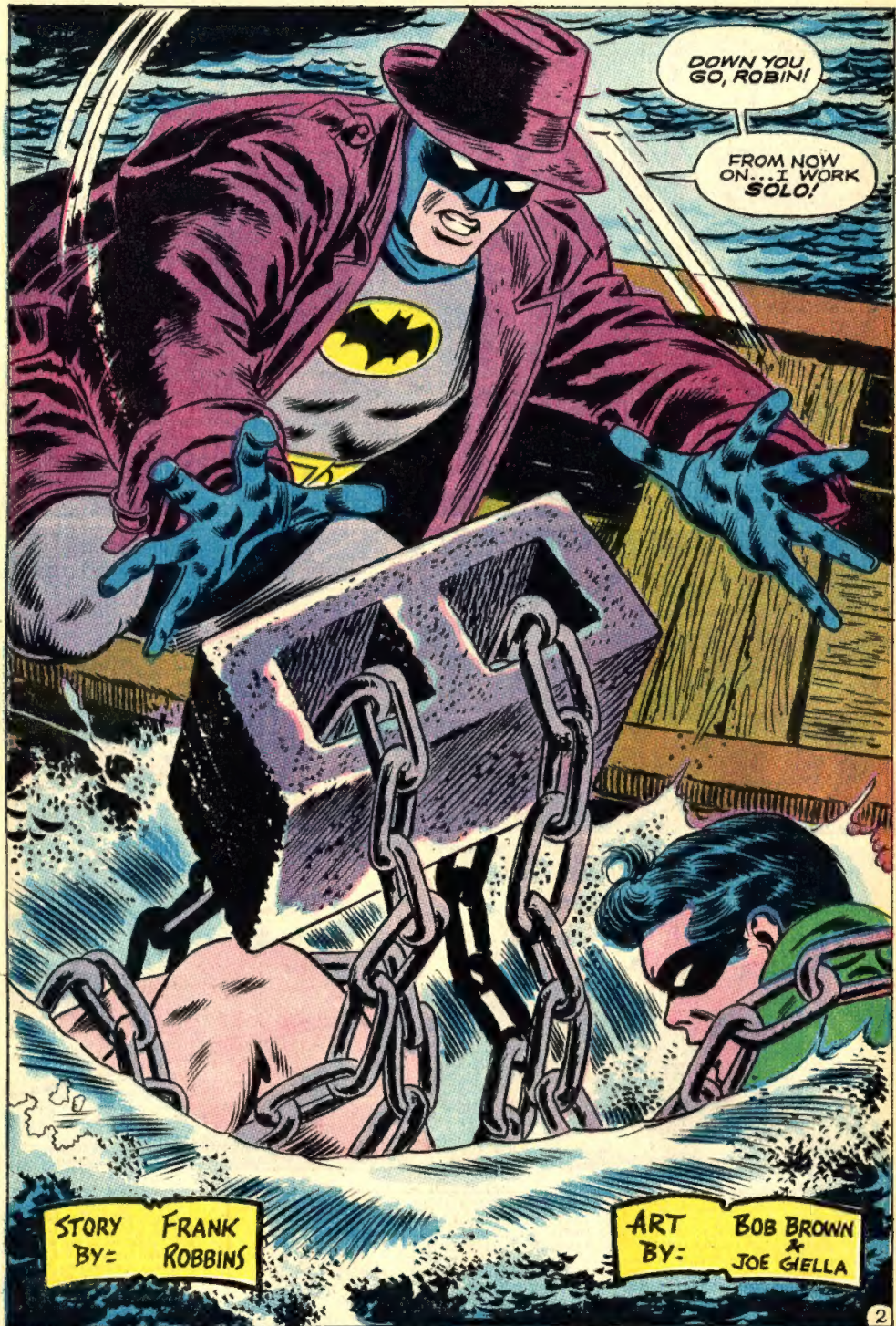
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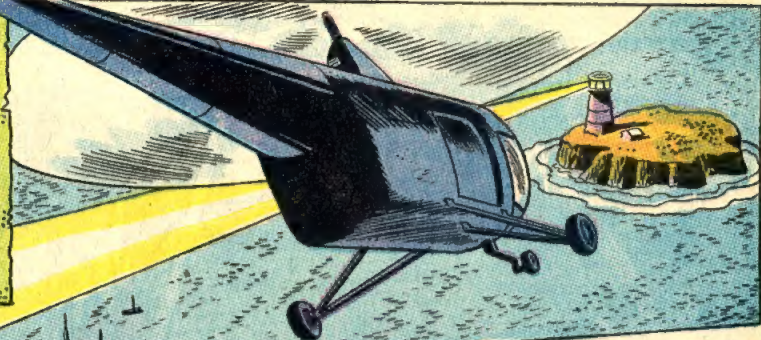
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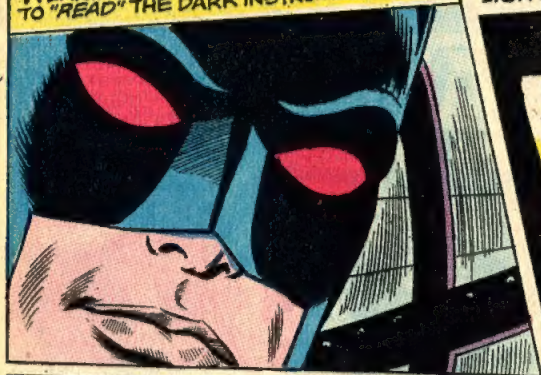
STORY BY: FRANK ROBBINS

ART BY: BOB BROWN & JOE GIELLA

IT ALL BEGAN
A MERE HOUR
EARLIER WHEN
BATMAN WAS
RETURNING
FROM A
JUSTICE
LEAGUE
OPERATION-- HIS
BATCOPTER
COMPLETELY
BLACKED OUT
TO AVOID
DETECTION BY
THE UNDER-
WORLD...

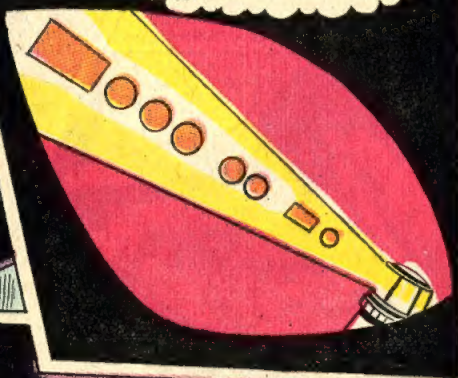


WEARING INFRA-RED CONTACT LENSES
TO "READ" THE DARK INSTRUMENT PANEL...

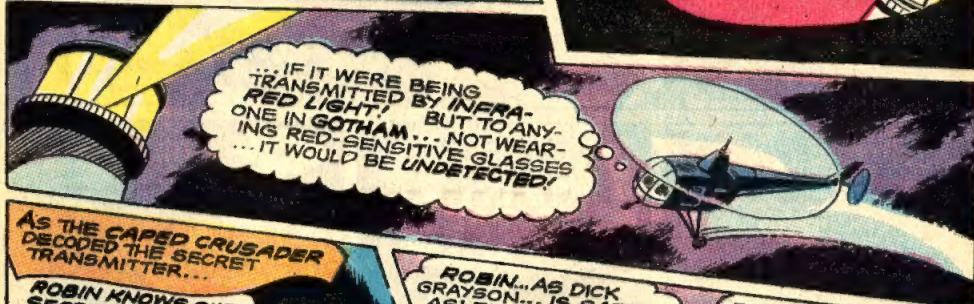


...HE CHANCED TO GLANCE AT THE SWEEPING
SEARCH-BEAM FROM GOTHAM HARBOR
LIGHTHOUSE...

A MORSE CODE BLINKER
SIGNAL... DIRECTED
TOWARD SHORE! BUT
I COULD ONLY SEE IT
WITH MY "CONTACTS"...



...IF IT WERE BEING
TRANSMITTED BY INFRA-
RED LIGHT! BUT TO ANY-
ONE IN GOTHAM... NOT WEAR-
ING RED-SENSITIVE GLASSES
...IT WOULD BE UNDETECTED!



AS THE CAPED CRUSADER
DECODED THE SECRET
TRANSMITTER...

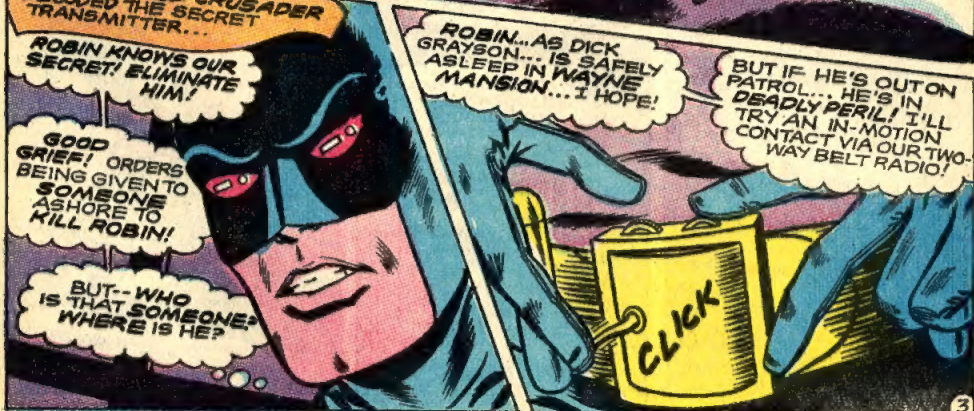
ROBIN KNOWS OUR
SECRET! ELIMINATE
HIM!

GOOD
GRIEF! ORDERS
BEING GIVEN TO
SOMEONE
ASHORE TO
KILL ROBIN!

ROBIN... AS DICK
GRAYSON... IS SAFELY
ASLEEP IN WAYNE
MANSION... I HOPE!

BUT IF HE'S OUT ON
PATROL... HE'S IN
DEADLY PERIL! I'LL
TRY AN IN-MOTION
CONTACT VIA OUR TWO-
WAY BELT RADIO!

BUT-- WHO
IS THAT SOMEONE?
WHERE IS HE?



AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE GOTHAM WATERFRONT...

ROBIN!
BATMAN
CALLING...COME
IN--IMPERATIVE!

BATMAN...
CAN'T READ YOU
NOW! GOT EMER-
GENCY SITUATION
ON PIER 21!

I DON'T CARE
WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
THIS IS A DIRECT
ORDER... CUT AND
RETURN TO BAT-
CAVE IMMEDIATELY!

HA-ALP-P!
MA-A-N
OVERBOARD!

KERSPLASH!

THE EXTREME URGENCY IN
BATMAN'S VOICE QUICKLY
CHANGED ROBIN'S COURSE...

WILL DO,
BATMAN!
OVER AND
OUT...!

BLAST YOU
...ROBIN!

ALMOST
HAD YOU IN
POINT-BLANK
RANGE!

WHILE BACK
WITH ROBIN'S
ANXIOUS
GUARDIAN...

GOOD BOY!
MAKE IT
HOME
SAFELY!

NOW TO
INVESTIGATE
THE SOURCE
OF THAT KILL-
COMMAND!
WHOEVER'S
TAKEN
CONTROL
OF THE
LIGHT-
HOUSE...

... MUST HAVE DONE IT
OVER THE DEAD BODY
OF MY OLD FRIEND
CAPT. CYRUS SPUME!
THAT OLD SEA DOG
WOULDN'T LET
PIRATES TAKE
OVER ANY SHIP
HE RAN...

... WHETHER
IT WAS AT SEA
OR ASHORE!

JUST BECAUSE
CYRUS RETIRED SIX
MONTHS AGO AND
TOOK UP LIGHTHOUSE-
KEEPING... DOESN'T
MEAN HE'LL TAKE
ANY "BOARDING"
SITTING DOWN!

HE'S A TOUGH
OL' COOT! BUT IF
THERE WERE
TOO MANY-

EH?

'Y CAPTURED
M' KNIGHT!...
'ERE-- CATCH!



SPUMEY...
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

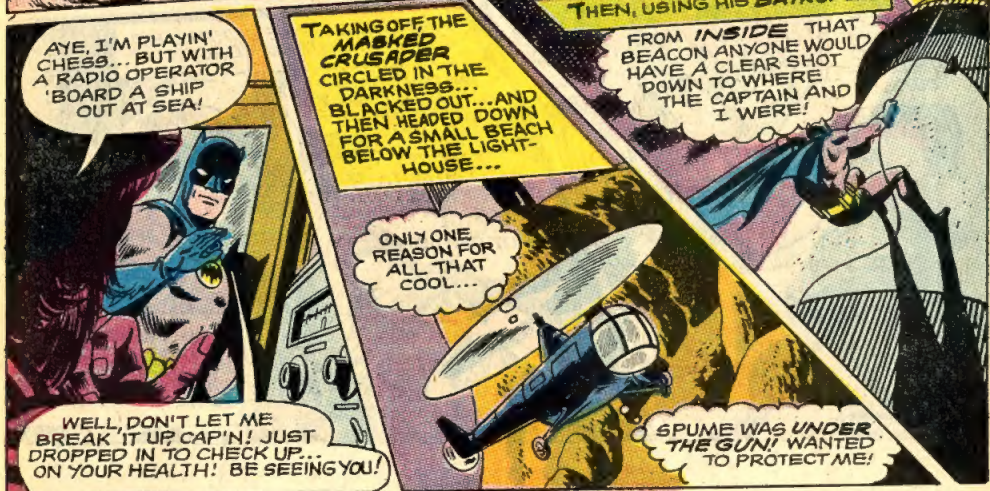
SHIVER M'BOW-
SPIRITS...IF IT ISN'T
M' LANDLUBBER
BUDDY, BATMAN!
AHOY, MATEY... SAY
HELLO TO ALBA-
TROSS!

QUINK!
QUINK!

I CALL HIM THAT,
'CAUSE LIKE WITH THE
"ANCIENT MARINER"
HE'S ALLUS HANGIN'
ROUND MY NECK!
HEE HEE! THAT'S A
GOOD 'UN,
EH?

REAL SALTY HUMOR, CAP'N!
HAVING A NICE... PEACEFUL
...GAME OF CHESS WITH...
ALBATROSS!

SURE IS PLAYING
IT COOL! NOT LIKE
HIM... HE USED TO
BE A RIPROARER
ABOARD HIS OWN
BRIDGE!



AYE, I'M PLAYIN'
CHESS... BUT WITH
A RADIO OPERATOR
'BOARD A SHIP
OUT AT SEA!

TAKING OFF THE
MASKED
CRUSADER
CIRCLED IN THE
DARKNESS...
BLACKED OUT...AND
THEN HEADED DOWN
FOR A SMALL BEACH
BELOW THE LIGHT-
HOUSE...

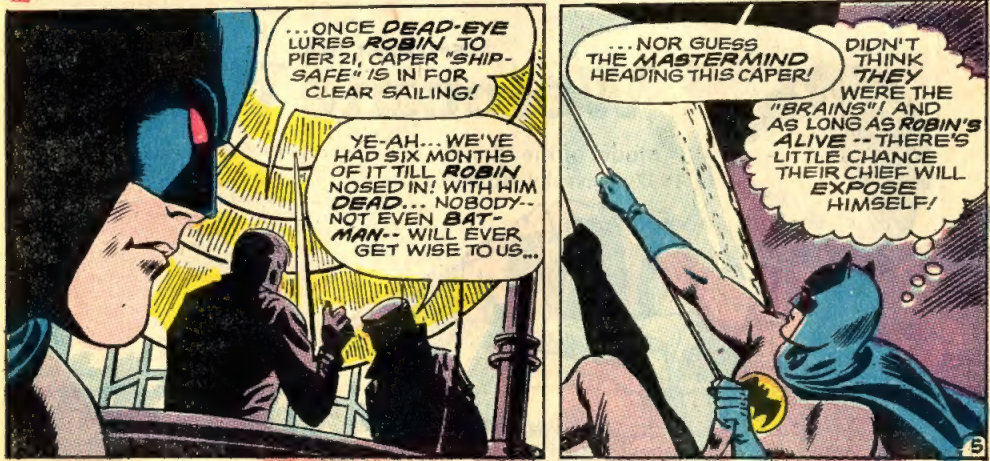
ONLY ONE
REASON FOR
ALL THAT
COOL...

THEN, USING HIS BATROPE...

FROM INSIDE THAT
BEACON ANYONE WOULD
HAVE A CLEAR SHOT
DOWN TO WHERE
THE CAPTAIN AND
I WERE!

WELL, DON'T LET ME
BREAK IT UP, CAP'N! JUST
DROPPED IN TO CHECK UP...
ON YOUR HEALTH! BE SEEING YOU!

SPUME WAS UNDER
THE GUN! WANTED
TO PROTECT ME!



... ONCE DEAD-EYE
LURES ROBIN TO
PIER 21, CAPER "SHIP-
SAFE" IS IN FOR
CLEAR SAILING!

YE-AH... WE'VE
HAD SIX MONTHS
OF IT TILL ROBIN
NOSED IN! WITH HIM
DEAD... NOBODY--
NOT EVEN BAT-
MAN-- WILL EVER
GET WISE TO US...

NOR GUESS
THE MASTERMIND
HEADING THIS CAPER!

DIDN'T
THINK
THEY
WERE THE
"BRAINS" AND
AS LONG AS ROBIN'S
ALIVE... THERE'S
LITTLE CHANCE
THEIR CHIEF WILL
EXPOSE
HIMSELF!

A SHORT TIME LATER,
IN THE BATCAVE...

BATMAN! WHY
THAT PULLING-
RANK COMMAND?
WHY'D
YOU WANT
ME BACK
HERE?

SKIP IT
ROBIN!
JUST
THINK...
REAL HARD...
AS TO WHY
ANYONE--
FOR NO MATTER
HOW SMALL
A REASON--
WOULD
SUDDENLY
WANT TO
KILL YOU?

K-KILL
YOUNG
MASTER
ROBIN?... HOW
D-DREADFUL!

I'VE GOTTEN
IN THE HAIR
OF A LOT OF
HAIRY
CHARACTERS,
BUT--

ROBIN...
THOSE INFRA-
RED GLASSES!
WHERE--

I PICKED
THEM UP
AT A CAPER
I BROKE UP
THE OTHER
NIGHT!

FILL ME
IN! IT MAY
BE THE CLUE
I'M LOOKING
FOR!

"I WAS PATROLLING
THE WATERFRONT,
WHEN..."

BLEE-EP!
BLEE-EP!

A ROBBERY
IN PROGRESS IN
THE PURSER'S
OFFICE BOARD
THAT SHIP!

"GETTING
A TOPSIDE
ADVANTAGE,
I JUMPED
THE LOOK-
OUT..."

KAPOW!

RU-FF!

"AND INSIDE, THE SURPRISED
SAFE-HEISTERS REACTED..."

ROBIN...? STASH
TH' CASH, LOODEY!
I'LL TAKE 'IM OFF
Y'R BACK!

YEAH, MUSH... IF
HE'S GONNA BREATHE
HARD ON MY NECK--
BREATHE
HOT ON HIS!

AND THERE'LL BE
NO TIME TO COOL
OFF... DURING
THIS SHORT
2-PAGE BREAK!

SEPTEMBER, 1968

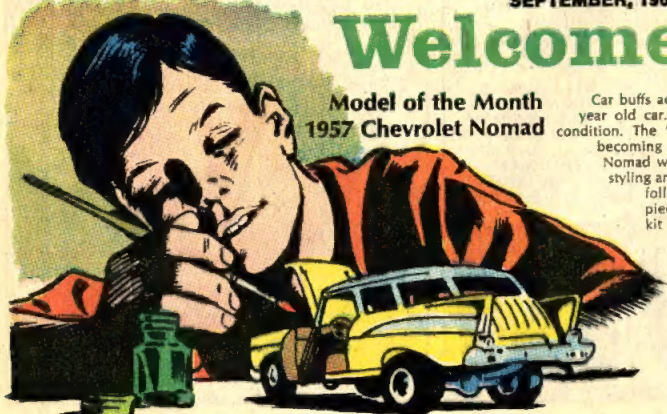
Welcome Wagon

Model of the Month
1957 Chevrolet Nomad

Car buffs across the nation are searching for this eleven year old car. They rejoice when they find one in good condition. The '57 Nomad station wagon is on its way to becoming a classic, and demand far exceeds the supply. Nomad was the first station wagon with passenger car styling and features. It set new standards that are being followed today... and it's still considered a cool piece of machinery. Revell's new Nomad model kit has doors, windows and tailgate that open and close. Wheels roll and front wheels turn. Front and rear can be adjusted to three different heights... just like they modify the real Nomad. Fun to build, for less than \$2.00.

For a catalog of 250 Revell models,
send 25¢ to:
Revell, Inc.,
4270 Glencoe
Ave., Venice,
California
90291.

Revell



WORLD'S *FASTEST* TRAIN

The "New Tokaido" train running between Tokyo and Osaka, Japan, is the fastest train service in the world. Part of Japanese National Railways, this train makes the 320.2 mile run in 3 hours 10 minutes, at an average speed of more than 101 m.p.h. Each train is made up of 12 cars, weighs 80 tons and can reach a top speed of 155 m.p.h. The "New Tokaido" is powered by motors with the energy of 11,943 horsepower.



WORLD'S *FASTEST* KID

The Cheerios Kid gets his energy from Cheerios. Like you, he needs a fresh supply of go-power every day. And, a breakfast with Cheerios and milk is packed with muscle-building protein and energy for go-power. Get yourself Go. Get Cheerios!



GENERAL MILLS

HERE'S A HOT
TIP... FOR YOUR
NEXT CASE,
ROBIN... IF
Y' LIVE TO
SLEUTH IT!

I'VE COOLED
HOTTER SHOTS
THAN YOU,
MUSH-FACE!



THERE'S ONLY
ONE WAY TO
FIGHT FIRE...

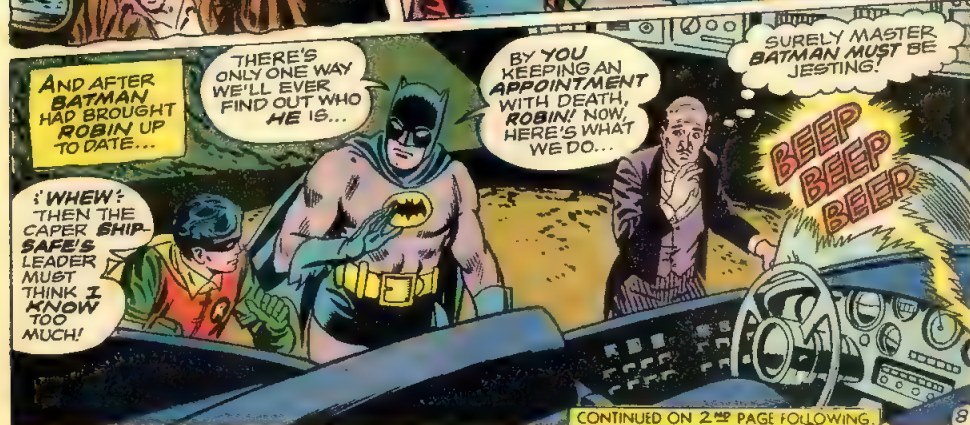
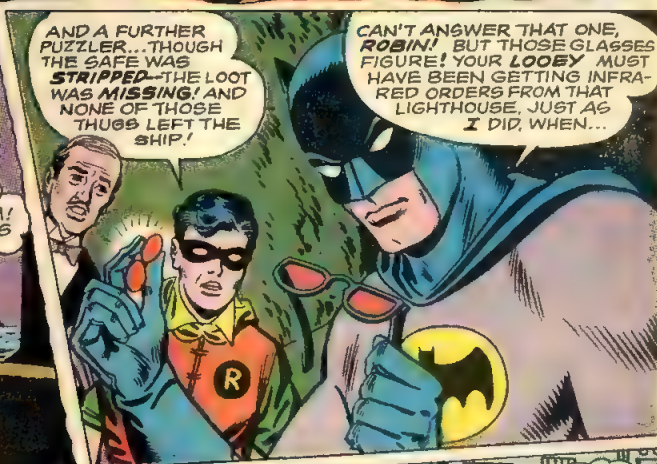
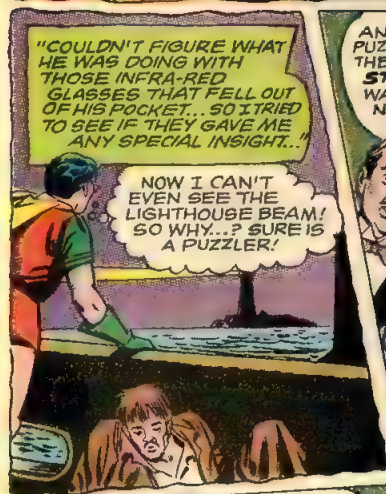
BY
CHOPPING
OFF ITS FUEL
SUPPLY!

KCHUNK!

"THEN I GET
OUT AFTER THE
LAST THUG...
FOUND HIM ON
THE STAR-
BOARD SIDE..."

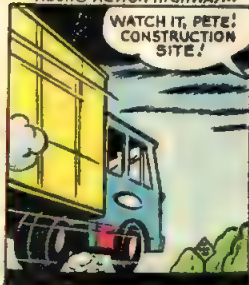
WHAT'S THE
MATTER, LOEY
... SICK OF THE
WHOLE THING?

AND FELLING
THE OAF WHO
DIDN'T LISTEN TO
SMOKEY THE
BEAR!





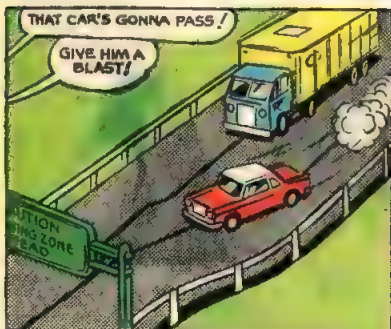
PETE'S NEW TRACTOR-TRAILER WITH EXCLUSIVE FORWARD AND REVERSE FEATURE IS HAULING HOT CARGO ALONG ACTION HIGHWAY...



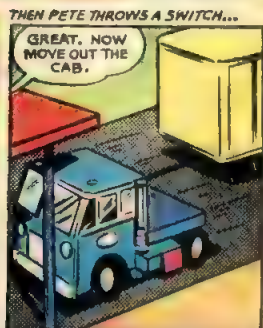
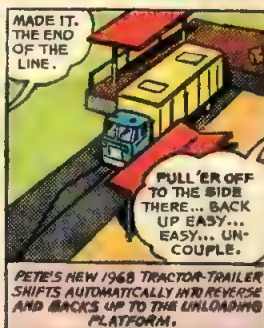
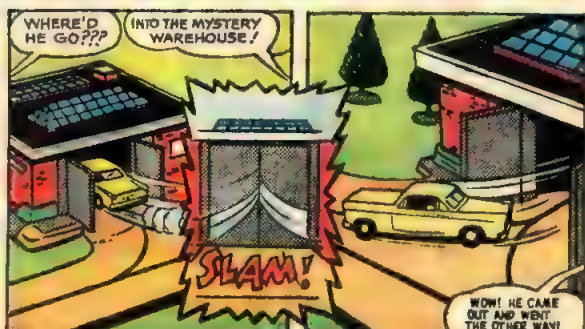
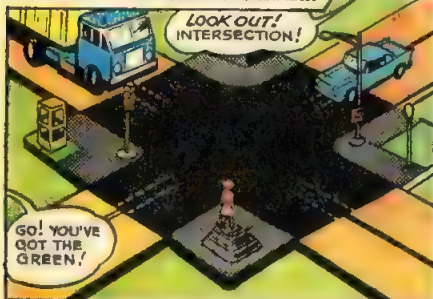
WHEN! CLOSE ONE. THAT WORKER'S CROSSING THE ROAD RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!



THE NEW ACTION FLAGMAN MOVES ACROSS THE ROAD AUTOMATICALLY. ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN ON ACTION HIGHWAY. THERE'S DANGER AT EVERY TURN.



PETE'S RIG IS RUNNING LATE. HE'S GOTTA MAKE A SCHEDULE AT THE ALL NEW TRAILER TERMINAL...



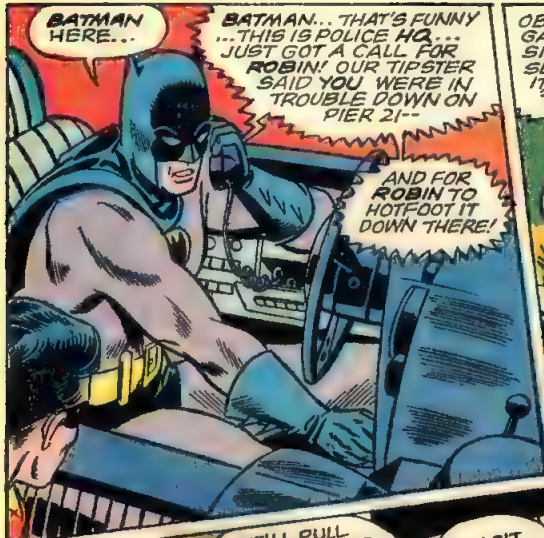
**GET ALL THE ACTION
ON ACTION HIGHWAY
FOR 1968.**

GET THE NEW CONSTRUCTION SITE WITH THE ACTION FLAGMAN, PASSING ZONE, MYSTERY WAREHOUSE, INTERSECTION, AUTOMATIC TRAILER TERMINAL, AND RUGGED TWO-WAY TRACTOR-TRAILER.

MOTORIFIC... IT'S TERRIFIC!

IT'S

IDEAL



BATMAN HERE...

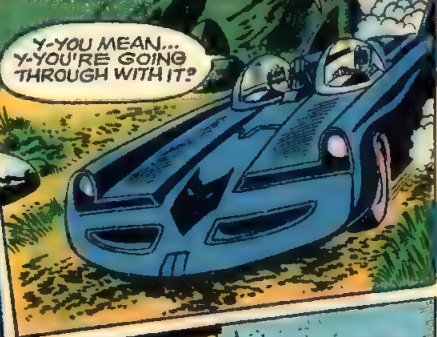
BATMAN... THAT'S FUNNY
...THIS IS POLICE HQ...
JUST GOT A CALL FOR
ROBIN! OUR TIPSTER
SAID YOU WERE IN
TROUBLE DOWN ON
PIER 21--

AND FOR
ROBIN TO
HOT-FOOT IT
DOWN THERE!

OBTUSIVELY SOME
GABSTER GOT HIS
SIGNALS MIXED!
SERGEANT! SKIP
IT, PLEASE... CLOSE
TRANSMISSION!

WOULDN'T
WANT THE POLICE
TO WITNESS YOUR
MURDER, WOULD
WE, ROBIN?

Y-YOU MEAN...
Y-YOU'RE GOING
THROUGH WITH IT?



AND AS THE
BATMOBILE
GUIDED SILENTLY
TO A STOP OUT-
SIDE PIER 21...

WE'LL PULL
UP HERE--AND
I'LL ARRANGE FOR
THE SHIP-SAFE
CHIEF TO GET A
GOOD LOOK AT
ROBIN'S
RUB-OUT!

YOU SIT
TIGHT TILL
I GIVE YOU
THE COME-
ON VIA OUR
TWO-WAY
RADIO!



ON CAT'S FEET BATMAN
ENTERED THE DARK, SILENT
STRUCTURE WHERE...

DEAD-EYE--THE
HIT-ARTIST-- WAITING
FOR ROBIN TO STICK
HIS NECK OUT...



BUT THERE
ARE SOME
NECKS... THAT
JUST ASK
FOR IT!



AND A
QUICK
SWITCH
LATER...

ALL
CLEAR,
ROBIN...
COME AND
GET IT!

MOMENTS
LATER...

21

BLAM!

TO NO ONE
ELSE WOULD I
TRUST MY LIFE!
:YIKE! THAT
SHOT WAS...
CLOSE!

HAVE TO DO
ALL THIS OUT IN
THE OPEN...WHERE
MR. X CAN'T
MISS IT!

AND FROM AFAR, A HIGH-POWERED
TELESCOPE IS INDEED COVERING
EVERY PHASE OF...
"E-L-I-M-I-N-A-T-E R-O-B-I-N..."

THEN, AFTER
DUMPING ROBIN
IN THE BAY,
BATMAN
OBSERVES
THROUGH HIS
INFRA-RED
CONTACT
LENSES...

"R-O-B-I-N D-E-A-D...
V-E-R-I-F-I-E-D F-I-E-L-D
C-L-E-A-R... P-R-O-C-E-E-D
P-I-E-R-I-O!"

THEN, BACK AT THE DOCK...

PIER 10P THAT
WOULD BE THE HOOG-
STRAM... JUST IN
FROM AMSTERDAM!
WHICH MEANS... DIAMONDS!
A BIG HAUL... IF
THEY GET IT!

AND... I'VE
GOT TO LET
THEM GET IT!
SO THEY CAN
LEAD ME TO
MR. X!

WHILE WITH THE BOY
WHO WAS GIVEN THE
"DEEP-SIX" BY
BATMAN...

:GLUB:
MY GUARDIAN
ALMOST PUT ON TOO
GOOD A SHOW!
IF I WEREN'T SUCH
AN EXPERT ESCAPE
ARTIST--

FREED HIMSELF THE BOY
WONDER TAKES HIS GAS-
MASK FROM THE UTILITY
BELT, AND WITH A TURN OF
A KNOB, CONVERTS IT TO A
MINI-AQUALUNG...

BATMAN'S PLAN CALLS
FOR ME TO HIDE OUT IN
OUR SEA-SIDE AUXILIARY
BATCAVE, BUT...

THAT'LL LEAVE HIM
ON HIS OWN... FACING
AN UNKNOWN ENEMY!
AN ENEMY WHO'S
ELUDED US BOTH FOR
THE PAST HALF YEAR!

A HALF YEAR?!
OF COURSE! THEN
MR. X MUST BE--

BUT BATMAN
WARNED ME TO STAY
"DEAD"! I CAN'T GO
TOPSIDE TO RADIO HIM
A WARNING! IN THAT
CASE, I'LL--

UNAWARE OF THE THREAT HE
MAY BE FACING, THE MASKED
MANHUNTER TAKES UP A
HIGH OBSERVATION POST ON
THE HOOGSTRA--

CAPER SHIP--
SAFE SURE
EMPLOYS A GROUP
OF EXPERTS! THEY
JUST WENT THROUGH
THAT SAFE
LIKE CHEESE!

BUT INSTEAD
OF TAKING IT
ON THE LAM...
THE THIEVING
TRIO CARRIES
A STRANGE,
HEAVY
OBJECT TO
THE STAR-
BOARD
SIDE, AND...

A SCUBA-MOTOR?!
AND THEY'RE OPENING
A HATCH... PUTTING
THE GEMS INSIDE!

NOW TO LET
THEM "WALK OUT"
SCOT-FREE! THEN I
TRAIL THEM... AT A
DISCREET DISTANCE!

AND AS
THEY
DROP IT
OVER-
SIDE...

MUST BE...
REMOTE-
CONTROLLED!
"HOMES" TO
MR. X'S HOME-
BASE...

SO THAT'S
HOW THE LOOT
VANISHED IN
ROBIN'S CASE!

GOTTA LATCH
ON! OR... I'LL NEVER
TRACK HIM DOWN!

PLUNGING DOWNWARD, THE **CAPED CRUSADER** JUST MANAGES A HAND-HOLD ON HIS STREAKING OBJECTIVE!

AND DONS HIS **MINI-LUNG** WHILE HE'S DRAGGED ALONG AS AN AQUATIC HITCH-HIKER...

DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOING, BUT... I'M KEEPING MIGHTY EXPENSIVE COMPANY!

SHORTLY IN A CAVE UNDER THE LIGHTHOUSE...

WELCOME... **WETMAN**! WE HAD YOU UNDER TELESCOPIC SURVEILLANCE EVER SINCE YOU LEFT THE SHIP!

SO... HEH! HEH! YOU'VE TRACKED US DOWN! AN' I BET YOU'RE JUS' DYING TO MEET THE CHIEF!

YOU'LL GET BOTH WISHES!

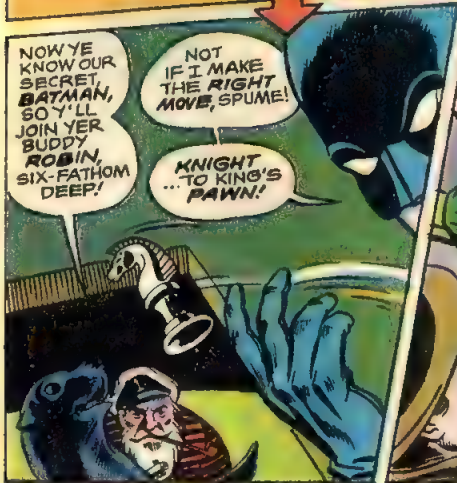
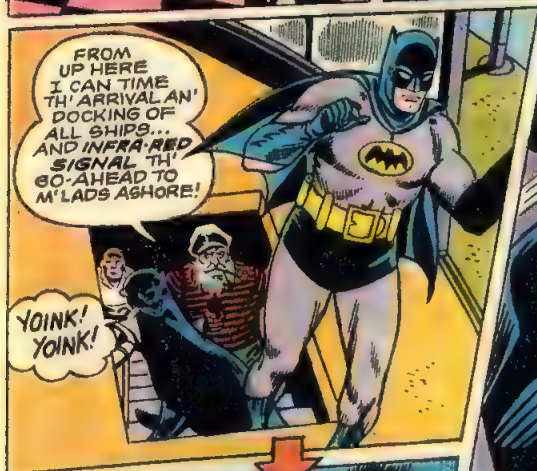
CAPTAIN **CYRUS SPUME!**

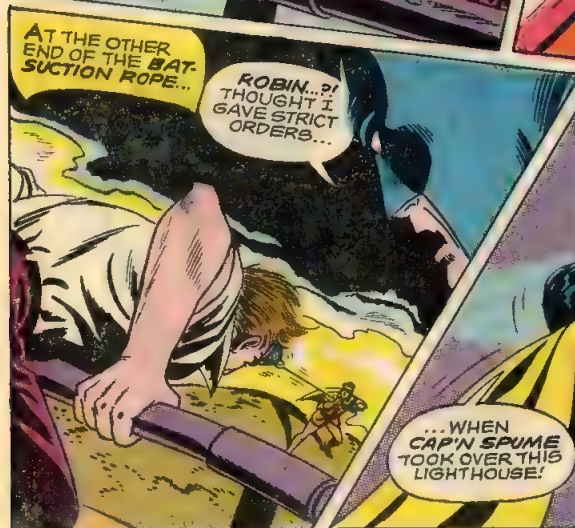
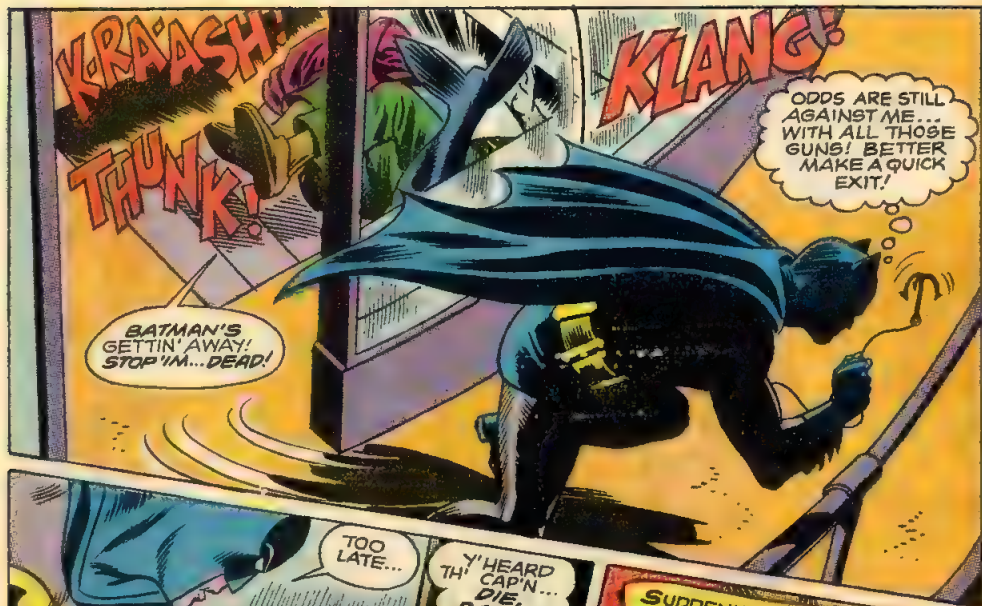
THE SAME, MATE... AN' STILL SKIPPER OF ME OWN BRIDGE!... WHEN I "RETIRED" AND TOOK OVER THIS LANDLOCKED CROW'S NEST... I HAD PLANS-- BIG PLANS!

SO I SET UP... CAPER, **SHIP-SAFF!** AN' MIGHTY PROFITABLE IT'S BEEN, TOO! RIGHT, **ALBATROSS?**

YERK! YERK!

KLAP! KLAP!





STAY DOWN,
ROBIN! I'LL
JOIN--

THAT KNOWLEDGE'LL
DO YE NO GOOD NOW!
TAKE **BATMAN**, SQUID,
WHILE I SCUTTLE
TH' KID!

YOU'LL HAVE
TO SINK ME **FIRST**,
SPUME! AND I DON'T
AIM TO GO DOWN
WITH THIS SHIP, SO...

...WE'LL
KILL
BOTH
GULLS
WITH ONE
--STOMP!

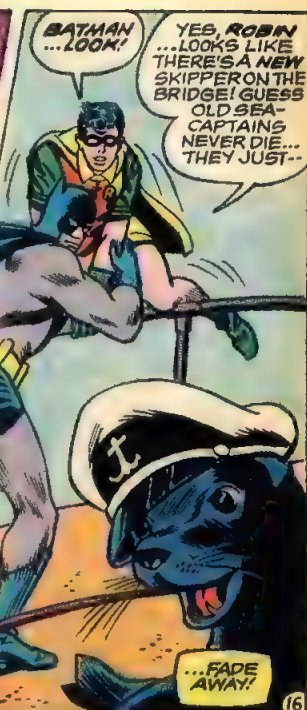
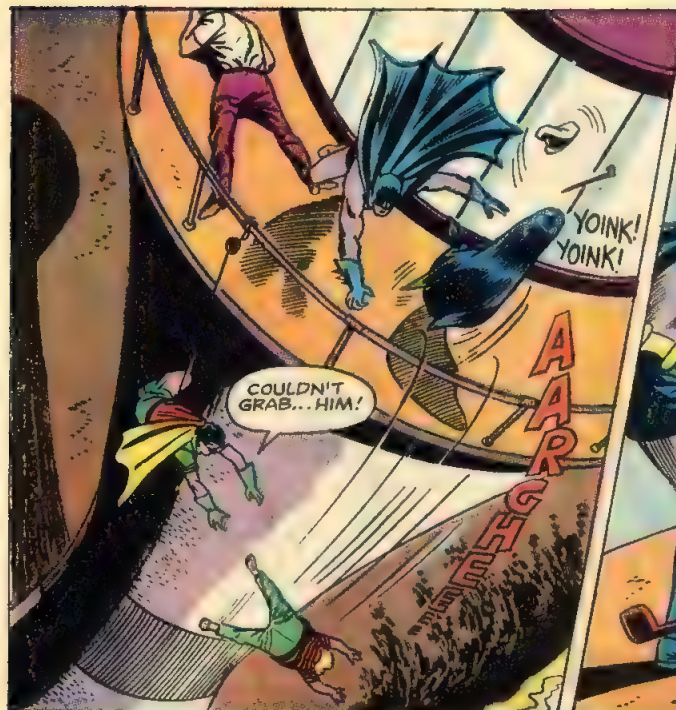
Kehow!

BLAM!

SO I MISSED
ROBIN... BUT HE'S
HELPLESS DOWN THAR,
SO-- LIKE Y'ASKED,
BATMAN--I'LL
SINK YE
FIRST!

BUT SUDDENLY
SPUME'S OWN
INSTRUMENT
TURNS AGAINST
HIM! AS THE
HIGH-INTENSITY,
RETINA-BLINDING
BEAM SWIVELS
ROUND IN FULL
CIRCLE...

AAR-KK!



DC **BROTHER POWER**
THE **GEEK** NO. 3 12c

HERE IS THE BEGINNING...
HOW IT GETS EXCITING!
AFTER
"A VISIT FROM THE DEEP!"

ANYTHING THAT LIVES and FIGHTS for its SOUL

A MAGAZINE ABOUT TODAY!

MAKE THE SCENE WITH THE GEEK

HE'S COMING YOUR WAY!!
ON SALE SEPT. 5TH

BATMAN'S HOT-LINE

Dear Editor: My taxing schedule leaves me precious little time for reviewing your "produce". However, every once in a while an extraordinary issue hits the stands that has an electrifying affect on this reader and the result is that I am compelled to make the time to let you know how I feel. One such "Happening" was Detective 377.

The primary reason why this issue impressed me was because of the unexpected manner in which the return of DC's greatest artist - Murphy Anderson - was revealed. Little did I suspect that as I would turn to the Elongated Man's strip that I would be confronted with M.A.'s beautiful panels with which to feast my eyes. All I can say is: "Welcome back, Murph. It's nice to have you home again!"

Oh yes, as for "The Case of the Clumsy Crooks", it was quaint, off-beat, and ironical. That a crook should succeed in pulling off robberies only to lose his ill-gotten gains through repeated acts of sheer buffoonery may have been stretching the imagination too much (pardon the pun), but made for an interesting story anyway.

The July Detective also ranked high on my list of "DC Greats" because of the excellent Batman tale, I was delighted that it commenced right on page one. (The notion that the initial page must be used to introduce the plot has always struck me as foolish and wasteful - what with comics dwindling in total pages more and more each day.) I have always admired Gardner Fox (I presume he authored this lad's mystery.) My esteem for this great writer always rises several points when he tackles a Riddler case. Why? Because it takes guts to write a tale that demands extra work. Why extra work? Because it requires a gifted imagination (which fortunately Mr. Fox has) to come up with a series of conundrums for the Prince of Puzzlers. But when you have a story, such as "The Riddler's Prison-Puzzle Problem" which required not only one but two different answers for each of the tantalizing riddles, an ostensible interpretation and a hidden meaning, then you have an idea of what Mr. Fox was up against. Fortunately, he did his homework quite well and produced a story that integrated mystery, suspense, and action very effectively. "T'was indeed a puzzlement!" - Joe Arul, New York, N.Y.

(This issue's Batman splash smacks you in the eye on page 2 - and what a "splash" it turns out to be... for Robin! With Murphy Anderson fully occupied on The Atom-Hawkmans - as well as The Spectre - we turned Sid Greene loose on the Elongated Man, with effective results as we hope you'll agree. - Editor.)

Dear Editor: For some reason, when I pick up a new issue of Detective, I often find myself wondering how it is ever going to be topped, because Detective is one magazine, as a general rule, that I can depend on to be of consistently high quality. There have, of course, been a few flubs which, for this letter, I shall not bother to name, but these are few and far between. Regardless of such wonderful things as The Spectre and the fabulous Deadman, Detective still ranks with me as one of the best comics being produced today.

Detective 377 shows why. The Riddler had always been an interesting character to read, but once it was told that he was under a psychotic compulsion to tip off Batman and Robin in advance, he became that much more interesting. The only complaint I can find with the whole story, and it is, admittedly, a small one, is the absence of a splash panel. A Batman story done in the mind-bogg-

ling style of Jim Steranko, or even Neal Adams, would come off so fantastically beautiful that you would have another of your all-compliments letter columns. Just think - a Batman replete with psychedelic zip-a-tone, double-page-type centerfold, and wide-angle-scream tactics for the rest of the artistry. Sigh. Anyway, the Riddler is quite an interesting character. Any time the Conundrum Crimester shows his face, I feel I can be reasonably certain of an enjoyable graphic experience. - Steven Carlberg, Shreveport, La.

Dear Editor: Obviously, you are doing away with splash pages. I don't mind this too much, since it gives more story room. But, I must say, I'm going to miss 'em!

"The Riddler's Prison-Puzzle Problem!" What can I say? This was not a very outstanding BM tale. The main theme, it seems to me, is showing how smart Batman is compared to Robin. Sure, there have been times when the Boy Wonder came out on top, but usually, he makes a futile attempt at solving a perplexing puzzle and then hides his head under his wings (?) - while Batman contradicts him and comes up with the solution. Then, of course there was Robin's failure to comprehend what Batman was going to do with the jewels.

Batman's detective ability was sure put to work here. One thing about Batman mags: there are almost always puzzles to tax the best crossword-puzzler's know-how. Now, I know that Battle has been wrong in making assumptions before, but I think you should make him make a disastrous boo-boo and I mean disastrous, not just a crook getting away. Batman's smart but there are limitations to brains. No one can know everything that there is to know and yet, it seems that Batman does. That makes him more of an Einstein than Einstein himself! I just don't believe our hero could have learned so much info. - Joe Ruskak, Montville, N.J.

(The Boy Wonder gets a chance to take the play away from Batman - and live up to his nickname - in next issue's "Riddle of the Robin" Robin!" - Editor)

Dear Editor: The Riddler, one of my favorite villains, is back! But what light through yonder jail-cell breaks? Oh, now, not the old "Police throw super-hero in jail for idiotic reason" bit again! Fortunately, that wasn't the case. Whew!

The story was the best Batman tale in a long time. The Riddler's dialogue indicated that he now has a distinctive personality, flippant, self-congratulatory, and slightly excitable. The riddles were clever as usual, and so were the ways in which Riddler tried to hide his riddles from Batman's sight. I was disappointed that Riddler has given up on trying to kill Batman. It takes a lot of excitement out of the stories if the villain isn't trying to kill the hero. Oh well, you still merit an "A" for this issue. And, hey, this issue was the first one within memory in which a super-villain actually got his hair mussed in a fight! - Peter Sanderson, Jr., Milton Mass.

(We don't often get the chance to use that hair-mussing bit. After all, so many of our villains are bald! - Editor)

Address communications to **BATMAN'S HOT LINE**, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022

ART
BY
SID
GREENE

The ELONGATED Man

STORY
BY
GARDNER
FOX

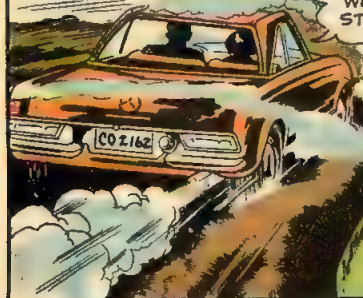
THROUGH A DENSE FOG SHROUDING A SECTION OF THE NEW ENGLAND COAST, RALPH (ELONGATED MAN) DIBNY AND HIS WIFE SUE DRIVE CAUTIOUSLY TOWARD THEIR DESTINATION WHEN...

RALPH--THERE'S A HOUSE UP ON THAT HILL! I CAN JUST MAKE IT OUT THROUGH THE FOG!

MAYBE THAT'S THE ROCK-BOUND HOTEL WE'RE TO STAY AT!

NO--THAT'S A VICTORIAN-TYPE MANSION--ABOUT A 100 YEARS OLD!

AND OUR HOTEL IS BRAND NEW--A REAL POSH PLACE!



2 MILE FURTHER ON, THE DIBNYS FIND THEIR HOTEL--AND AS RALPH REGISTERS, SUE CHITCHATS WITH THE MANAGER...

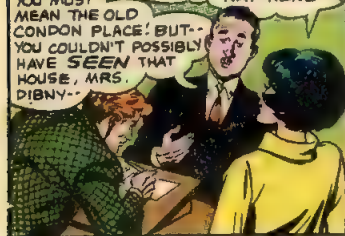
BY THE WAY, WHO OWNS THAT PERFECTLY LOVELY VICTORIAN HOUSE WE SAW THROUGH A RIFT IN THE FOG ON THE WAY HERE--?

YOU MUST MEAN THE OLD CONDON PLACE! BUT--YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE SEEN THAT HOUSE, MRS. DIBNY--

IT BURNED COMPLETELY TO THE GROUND A YEAR AGO, TAKING THE LIFE OF EDWIN CONDON--AND LEAVING HIS BUTLER GEORGE WITH A SHATTERED MIND!

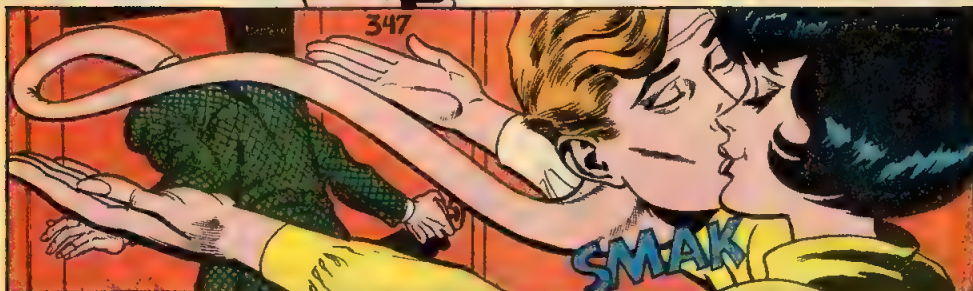
RALPH, I-- I'M AFRAID TO LOOK! IS YOUR NOSE--

TWITCHING? YOU BET IT IS! THE SCENT OF A STRANGE MYSTERY IS COMING ON STRONG!



AND WHAT A BIZARRE MYSTERY IT PROMISES TO BE! A HOUSE--BURNED DOWN A YEAR EARLIER--YET STILL STANDING AS FAR AS RALPH AND SUE DIBNY ARE CONCERNED!

the come-and-go **MANSION MYSTERY!**



MOMENTS LATER, THE STRETCH-
ABLE SLEUTY IS BACKTRACKING
ALONG THE ROAD, HIS ELONGATED
ARMS HELD OUT BEFORE HIM TO
FEEL HIS WAY THROUGH THE THICK
FOG...

I'VE HEARD OF GHOSTS
OF HUMANS THAT HAVE
PASSED AWAY--

BUT NEVER
OF A GHOST-
HOUSE THAT
CEASED TO
EXIST...

WHEN HE
REACHES THE
HILLTOP...

NO HOUSE? ONLY THE REMAINS
OF THE FIRE...

SO WHERE
DOES THAT
LEAVE ME
AND THAT
HOUSE I
SUPPOSEDLY
SAW--?

BETTER
TAKE A
LOOK--!

WH--WHAT WAS THAT SOUND
COMING FROM UP ON THE HILL?

AFTER
BROWSING
AROUND,
HE TURNS
TO LEAVE
WHEN...

WHOOOOO

WHAT
GIVES
HERE?!

WHOOSSHH

A RUBBEROID
HOUSE--THAT
INFLATES
WITH AIR--
GOING UP--!?

SUDDENLY, HIS
EARS PICK UP THE
SOUND OF VOICES...

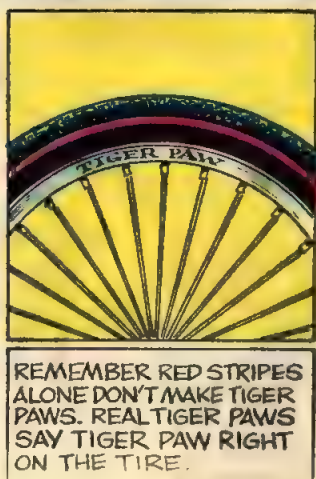
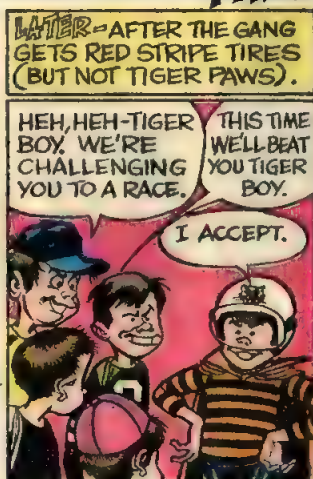
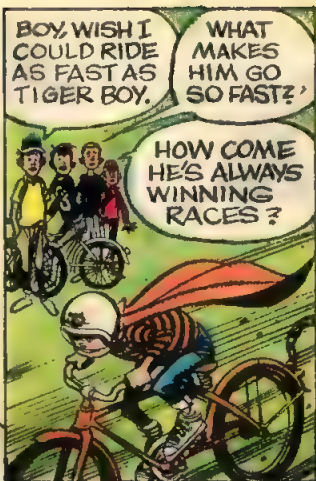
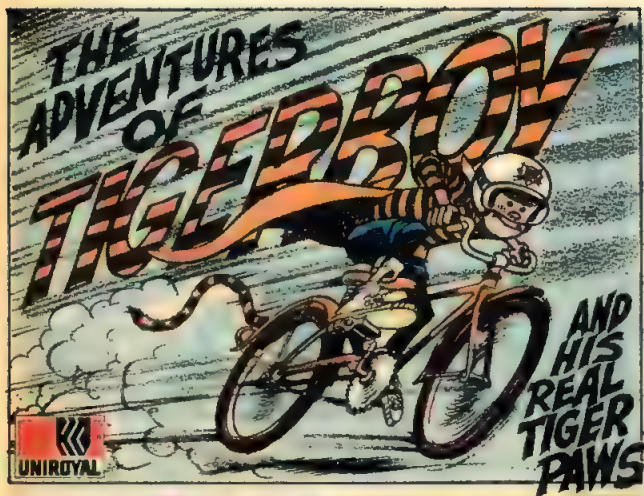
YOU KNOW ME,
GEORGE! I AM
YOUR MASTER--
EDWIN CONDON!

YOU REMEMBER
ME, DON'T YOU?

M-MASTER?
BUT THE
MASTER
IS DEAD...

DEAD IN
HOUSE WHEN
IT BURNED TO
GROUND...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.





NO--YOU DREAMED THAT, GEORGE! THE HOUSE IS STILL HERE--SEE!

NOW TELL ME-- WHERE DID YOU HIDE THE PRETTY PAINTINGS I KEPT IN THE HOUSE?

CANNOT REMEMBER! NOT REMEMBER ANYTHING...

AWW, IT'S NO USE! WHATEVER HAPPENED THAT NIGHT WHEN THE CONDON PLACE BURNED DOWN GAVE GEORGE SUCH A SHOCK--IT WIPED OUT HIS MEMORY!

WE'VE GOT TO KEEP TRYING TO MAKE HIM REMEMBER! CONDON HAD A COLLECTION OF MINIATURE ART WORTH A FORTUNE--

AND I'M STILL PLAYING MY HUNCH THAT GEORGE MANAGED TO SAVE THE COLLECTION BEFORE THE HOUSE WENT UP IN FLAMES!

I WANT TO SEE THE PAINTINGS AGAIN, GEORGE! WHERE DID YOU PUT THEM?

NOT REMEMBER... NOT REMEMBER...

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME TONIGHT WE'VE INFLATED THAT DUPLICATE OF THE HOUSE WE HAD SPECIALLY MADE--

AND IT STILL HASN'T JOGGED HIS MEMORY!

SUDDENLY--A YELLOW STREAK FLASHES ACROSS THE NIGHT SKY...



"MISTER CONDON RAN OUT-- HIS ARMS FILLED WITH HIS PRICELESS TREASURES..."



L-LIGHTNING! JUST LIKE THE OTHER TIME WHEN--

LIGHTNING HIT THE HOUSE-- AND SET IT AFLAME!

HE'S STARTING TO REMEMBER! LISTEN--



TAKE THEM, GEORGE!

I'VE GOT TO GO BACK AND SAVE THE REST OF MY MINIATURES!

I KNOW A SAFE PLACE TO KEEP THEM, SIR!

"THE MASTER KEPT BRINGING THEM OUT OF THE BLAZING HOUSE--AND I KEPT STORING THEM AWAY. FINALLY..."

ONLY A FEW MORE--

NO, SIR--PLEASE DON'T GO BACK IN AGAIN! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

HE--HE NEVER CAME OUT!

HOW CLEARLY IT ALL COMES BACK TO ME NOW...

WHAT'D I TELL YOU? I KNEW THERE WAS A WAY TO MAKE HIM REMEMBER!

WE DUPLICATED EVERYTHING--BUT THAT BOLT OF LIGHTNING! AND WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT!

NOW TO GET GEORGE TO LEAD HIS "MASTER" TO THE LOOT!

I'LL TAG ALONG--AND STRIKE WHEN THE TRAIL GETS HOT!

THESE THUGS WORKED OUT A CLEVER SCHEME--ALL RIGHT--INFLATING THAT HOUSE ONLY ON FOGGY NIGHTS...

BEFORE A FINGER CAN TIGHTEN ON A TRIGGER...

GOT TO SAVE GEORGE--

BEFORE THE FIRE WORKS START!

IN A CAVE ALONG A JAGGED STRETCH OF ROCKY COASTLINE...

SEE, SIR? THE TREASURE IS HERE--SAFE AND DRY!

BY GEORGE, SO IT IS!

OKAY, ED! GET RID OF THE OLD GEEZER--SO HE CAN'T TELL ANYONE WHAT HAPPENED!

HEY, WHAT'S HAPPENIN' T' ME?

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

THE
MAGIC
NUMBER
IS

3!

3 STAR-STUDDED SPECTACULARS

featuring

THE INITIATION OF THE
TERRIFIC TRIO--

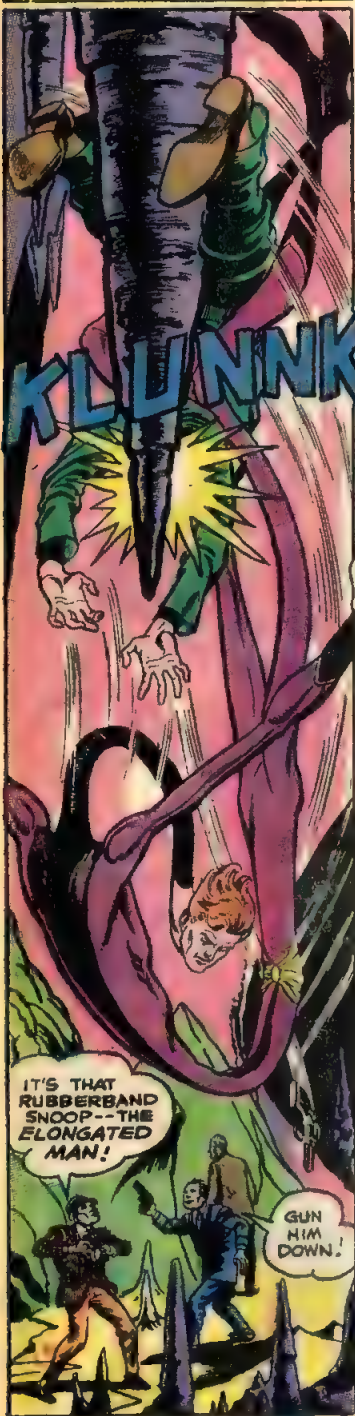
Green Arrow ★ The Atom ★ Hawkman--

INTO THE
**JUSTICE
LEAGUE!**

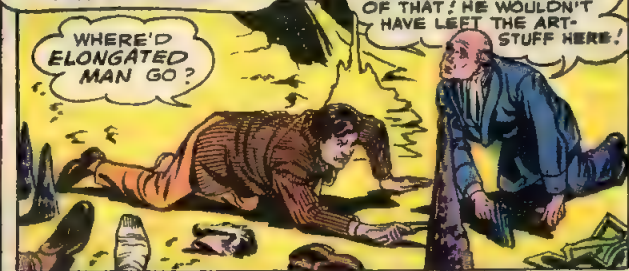


Super-
Starring
BATMAN
SUPERMAN
AQUAMAN
The FLASH
GREEN
LANTERN
Wonder
Woman
MARTIAN
MANHUNTER

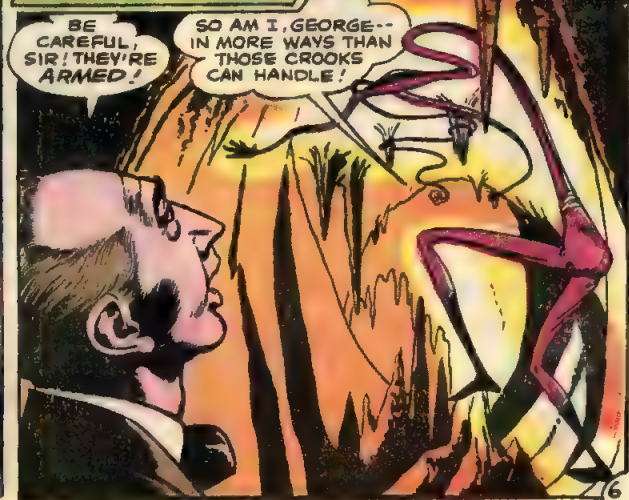
AS THE THUG ROCKETS CEILING--
WARD INTO A STALACTITE...



NEXT MOMENT--THE
CAVE SEEMS DESERTED EXCEPT
FOR THE GUNMEN...



AND OUTSIDE THE CAVE...



MAKING
ALONG THE TOP
OF THE CAVE,
TWISTING HIS
STRETCHABLE
BODY FROM
STALACTITE
TO STALACTITE,
THE DUCTILE
DETECTIVE
UNCOILS HIS
ARSENAL OF
WEAPONS...

I'VE GOT IT
ALL OVER
THEM--

HANDS
DOWN!

WHAK WAP ZONK

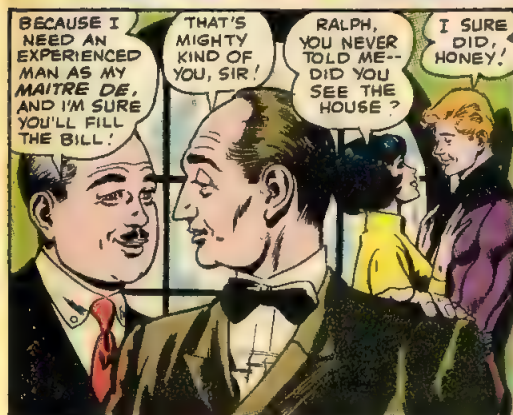
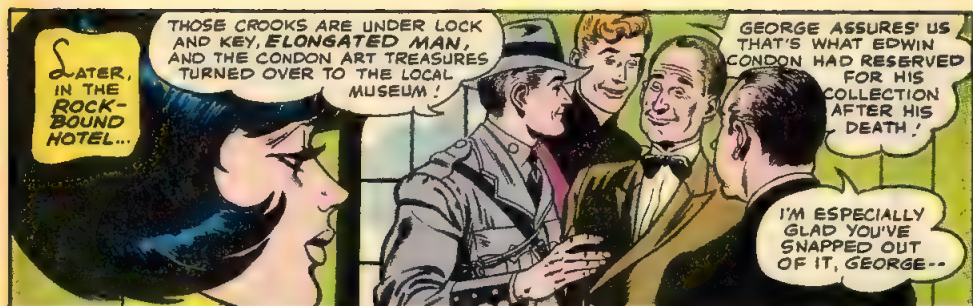


AND WHERE
THE HANDS
LEAVE OFF--

THE LEGS
FINISH UP!

THWOK
WHONK





born to
TROUBLE!

HIS NAME'S

JONNY DOUBLE!

DYNAMIC DEBUT
IN
SHOWCASE
#78 DECEMBER

IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER



Beware THE CREEPER



12¢ DEC NO. 4



DON'T CREEP...
DON'T CRAWL...

RUN!

—TO
YOUR
NEAREST
NEWS-
DEALER!
●
ON SALE
SEPT. 19th

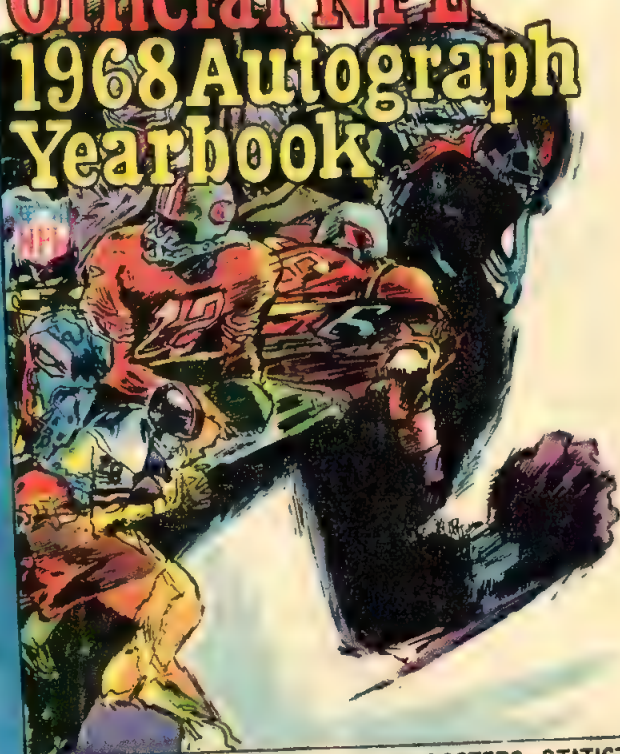
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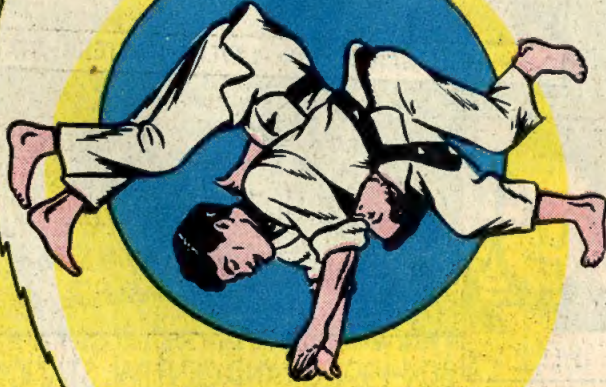


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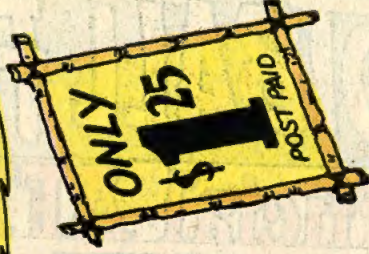
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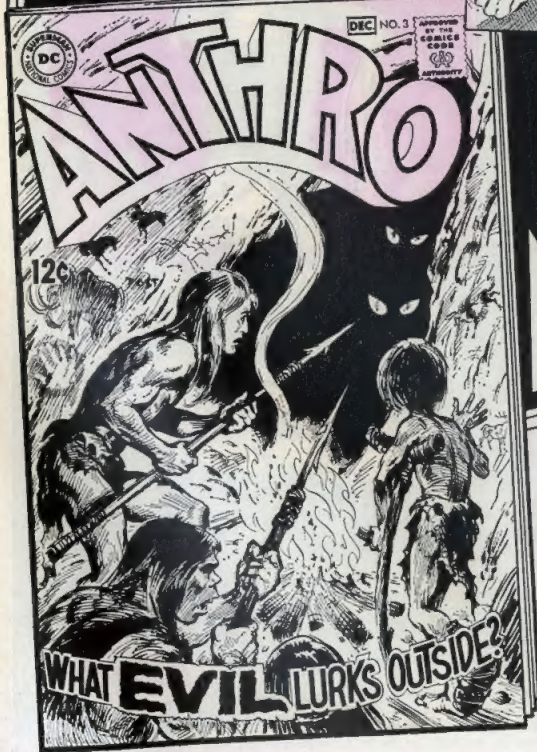
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FROM
OUT OF THE
PAST
COME 2 HITS
OF THE
PRESENT!!



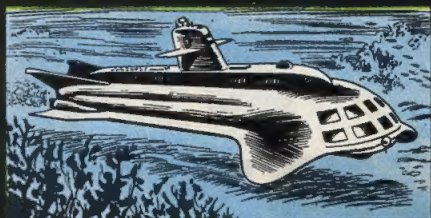
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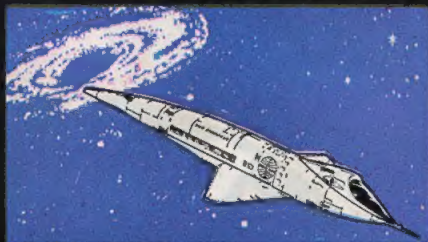


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